

Sanford “Sandy” Krasnoff Criminal Justice Council Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, August 30, 2017

1:00pm – 2:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consideration and Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2017 Meeting
- IV. Opening Remarks
- V. Unfinished Business
 - a. Family Justice Center Update on FY17 VOCA Proposal
- VI. New Business
 - a. Priorities for Criminal Justice System
 - i. Performance Management Report
 - ii. Update on Murder and Shooting Trends
 - b. Grant Matters
 - i. 2016 Grant Report
 - ii. Proposal for FY15 Victims of Crime Assistance Residual Funds
 - iii. Proposal for FY16 Victims of Crime Assistance Residual Funds
 - iv. Notice for allocation of FY17 direct Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- VII. Councilmember Updates
- VIII. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

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1:00pm – 2:30pm

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:07 pm in the Homeland Security Conference Room on the 8th Floor of City Hall.

II. Roll Call

Calvin Johnson called roll of the Councilmembers. 13 members were present, quorum was met.

Present at Roll Call

Rebecca Dietz
Gary Maynard for Sheriff Gusman
Michael Harrison
Germaine Simon
Calvin Johnson
Charles West
Colin Reingold for Derwyn Bunton
Ranord Darensburg for Judge Bates-Anderson
Susan Guidry
Lynn Alline for Councilmember Head
Judge Paul Sens
LaKeasha Cooley
Melanie Talia

Absent at Roll Call

Arthur Morrell
Chris Bowman for DA Cannizzaro
Jason Williams
David Kent
Fred Luter
Jeff Hebert
Jeffrey Rouse
John Penny
Steve Lassalle
Thelma French

Arrived Later

Judge Camille Buras for Judge White

Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Staff

Sarah Schirmer
DuBois Winford
Sai Ramchander
Amanda Simpkins
Maria-Kay Chetta
George Lawrence
Rodney Dejoie

III. Consideration and Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2017 Meeting

No corrections were requested to the April 19 minutes.

Rebecca Dietz motioned to approve the minutes; Gary Maynard seconded.

All in favor – no nays – no abstentions.

The minutes were approved.

IV. Opening Remarks

Calvin Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He introduced Germaine Simon who took over as Director of the Youth Study Center about four months ago. Germaine Simon had previously served in city government in New York City. Germaine Simon expressed that he was looking forward to working with the entire system and Criminal Justice Council.

Calvin Johnson reintroduced Judge Paul Sens. Judge Sens is the Chief Administrative Judge of the Municipal and Traffic Court that consolidated in January of this year. He's served on the bench for 20 years and was previously a member of the Criminal Justice Council.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Family Justice Center Update on FY17 VOCA Proposal

Calvin Johnson introduced an update to the Family Justice Center FY17 VOCA proposal. Because the scope of the proposal changed significantly, it entails a new vote of the Council. Calvin Johnson introduced Mary Claire Landry to explain the changes.

Mary Claire Landry explained that they had extensive discussions with UMC over the last several months. Ultimately, they were unsuccessful in getting support from UMC and the Coroner's Office to do forensic exams on site. She expressed disappointment in the decision.

Calvin Johnson asked if they still request that the Council approves the proposal as it stands now. Mary Claire Landry replied that they are still requesting approval for the updated proposal. Lynn Alline asked whether the concerns about chain of custody are still valid in the revised proposal. Mary Claire Landry stated that they had removed all of those references when they removed the portion relating to forensic exams.

Charles West motioned to approve the proposal; Susan Guidry seconded.

Susan Guidry stepped out at 1:18. Calvin Johnson asked for public comments. The chair of the Family Justice Center's Criminal Justice Committee commented that a lot of work went into allowing forensic examinations at the Family Justice Center and that the decision to exclude exams limited the options for victims of rape. Judge Buras arrived at 1:19.

11 in favor - 0 nays - 2 abstentions.

The proposal was approved.

Calvin Johnson expressed that he is in favor of doing all that can be done for victims of assault, but that the law is what the law is. Susan Guidry returned at 1:21.

VI. New Business

c. Priorities for Criminal Justice System

i. Performance Management Report

ii. Update on Murder and Shooting Trends

Calvin Johnson introduced a report on Performance Management and a report on Murder and Shooting trends. He asked councilmembers to participate in a survey to rate how the Council is coordinating as a body to inform whether or not the body is being successful in its role.

Sarah Schirmer announced that she will send out the 2017 mid-year report on Performance Management and Shooting and Murder trends via email in the next few days.

d. Grant Matters

i. 2016 Grant Report

Sarah Schirmer introduced the 2016 Grant Report, which looks at all the grants operating within 2016. It aggregates the data reported for each of those grants and rates them with a traffic signal mechanism.

Charles West asked about a grant rated as more than 10% off target. Sarah Schirmer explained that it was a delay in hiring staff that caused them to miss their performance goals.

Germaine Simon stepped out at 1:25.

Sarah Schirmer discussed how the report can help the Council see how organizations have operated in the past and whether they were able to reach the goals they set out.

Rebecca Dietz asked if there was an opportunity for anyone ranked in red or yellow to justify their numbers. Sarah Schirmer replied that we allowed them to include notes about any issues they encountered but that the Council would not recall them for an explanation. It would be a question brought up if they made a future ask for funding. Calvin Johnson recommended including their standing in future asks for funding.

Germaine Simon returned at 1:30.

Judge Sens commented that it would be helpful to have the report before the meeting to review. Calvin Johnson agreed.

Lynn Alline commented that it would be helpful if recipients could provide an explanation for why they are where they are and what they plan to do about it. Calvin Johnson agreed and said that while the Council is better at accountability than they've ever been before, there are still areas to improve: how the Council functions and how information is provided and messaged.

Sarah Schirmer reminded the councilmembers that the questionnaire that was distributed needs to be filled out before the councilmembers leave. She also explained that all responses are anonymous.

Susan Guidry asked how the determination was made about whether an organization was less or more than 10% off their target. Sarah Schirmer explained that some of the grants are on 18 month funding cycles, so in those cases an organization still has time to turn their performance around and may be rated as yellow even if they are currently on track to meet their target by the end of the grant.

ii. Proposal for FY15 Victims of Crime Assistance Residual Funds

Calvin Johnson introduced a proposal from UMC for FY15 Victims of Crime Assistance funds.

Paulette Lill is a forensic nurse coordinator at UMC. She introduced their proposal for equipment to conduct forensic exams for sexual assault victims. A forensics nurse can do ballistics, strangulation, etc. and can therefore assist law enforcement with evidence collection. She explained that the camera they've requested is a special illuminant that fluoresces evidence under a special light. Right now they have a separate camera and light that makes the process more time consuming. The other piece of equipment they're requesting is a new handheld, voice activated culpascope that is much smaller than their current culpascope and should therefore be less intimidating for victims.

Charles West asked whether it's allowed for VOCA funds to be used for services for victims from other parishes who come to UMC for exams. Lynn Aline agreed that within the scope of the proposal they referenced increasing capacity to serve other parishes, which could be an issue for VOCA funds. Another representative from UMC replied that they've always served multiple parishes but that the vast number of increase is from Orleans Parish. Maria-Kay Chetta said that it is a question for LCLE but that UMC could write in their NOI that they would only be serving Orleans Parish victims with the grant funded equipment and staff. Mary Claire Landry said that in their case for grants that are specific to Orleans Parish their staff only serve Orleans Parish. Superintendent Harrison asked whether there was a distinction if the victim is from Orleans Parish or whether the crime occurred in Orleans Parish. Calvin Johnson stated that LCLE ruled that it doesn't matter. George Lawrence clarified that it doesn't matter because the exams are taking place within Orleans Parish.

Charles West motioned to approve the proposal; Gary Maynard seconded.
12 in favor - 0 nays - 2 abstentions

Melanie Talia left at 1:45.

iii. Proposal for FY16 Victims of Crime Assistance Residual Funds

Calvin Johnson introduced the second proposal from UMC. Paulette Lill explained that she's currently the only full time forensic nurse. Every case should be peer reviewed, but she does not currently have that capacity. Also, a second nurse could assist with making sure all the examination files are secured and uploaded.

Susan Guidry asked if the second nurse would result in patients being seen more quickly. Paulette Lill replied that her understanding is that UMC cannot use grant funds to pay a forensic nurse to do forensic examinations. The nurse could certainly stop what they were doing and conduct a forensic exam but that cost would be picked up by UMC and not the grant.

Sarah Schirmer introduced Sgt. Minto. Sgt. Minto explained that OPSO's proposal would allow her to work a couple hours extra each week to better assist victims and so that her caseload can reduce.

Rebecca Dietz asked if there was funding for both proposals. Sarah Schirmer said that yes, there was adequate funding for both.

Susan Guidry motioned to approve both proposals; Rebecca Dietz seconded.

A member of the public, Janet Hays, asked whether victims assistance included victims in the jail. Sgt. Minto explained that the reparations board has limitations on how funds can be spent, but in those cases, she would refer those victims to other agencies.

12 in favor - 0 nays - 1 abstention.

The motion was approved.

iv. Notice for allocation of FY17 direct Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Calvin Johnson explained that the FY17 Byrne JAG funding allocation of \$269,516 does not require a vote by the Council. However the rules require that the JAG allocation be made available for review by the governing body. The Mayor approved the following allocations:

- \$5,000 in administrative funds for OCJC's grant team's operations;
- District Attorney's Office for a data analyst to support processing of evidence from body worn cameras in the amount of \$55,323;
- Health Department for 6 months of funding for its Community Alternatives Program in Municipal Court in the amount of \$33,980;
- Police Department for new kennels for its K9 Unit in the amount of \$15,500
- Police Department for 1,000 Naloxone Nasal atomizer kits which are also known as opioid overdose reversal kits in the amount of \$66,000; and
- Criminal District Court in support of drug testing and treatment in its Drug Court in the amount of \$93,713.

Calvin Johnson asked for any public comment.

Ranord Darensburg asked how much the antidote cost. Calvin Johnson said \$66,000 for 1,000 antidotes. Superintendent Harrison clarified that 1,000 antidotes means at least one antidote in every car and some going to other officers who are not on patrol. Calvin Johnson discussed how there have been incidents around the country where officers are exposed to opioids that are hazardous even on skin contact. Sgt. Rome of NOPD explained that one of his officers did an undercover drug purchase of what he thought was heroin and became ill afterward. Since the officer was undercover, he had to do the purchase barehanded. Once they tested the drugs, they discovered it was actually fentanyl. Even the short contact was bad.

VII. Councilmember Updates

Calvin Johnson asked for any other updates or discussion from the Council itself. One of the things they're trying to improve on is how to collectively be better at addressing issues across this collaborative process.

Judge Sens asked if there were any updates about the Motions System. Superintendent Harrison said that inevitably the system will go away, but he's not sure when. Motions was built in the 60s and is still around, but they're working on having all the systems talk to one another. The courts aren't tied in yet.

Calvin Johnson mentioned that there are several things in the pipeline for changes to how the system operates, particularly recognizing that we can use technology. Superintendent Harrison noted that when he's presented with the newest and best thing for law enforcement, rarely is it something for the whole criminal justice system. The group is never together from the same budget looking for the same thing that integrates all the system together. He doesn't see things being coordinated from a national or private sector perspective that speaks to the whole system.

Judge Sens remarked that although it is important for the Council to approve grant requests, it should be more than only that. Calvin Johnson agreed and stated that with everyone in the room there's a great capacity in terms of knowledge and thought power.

Sarah Schirmer mentioned that an Information Sharing Subcommittee was created in 2014. Since then a number of things have been implemented, but it's probably time to reevaluate the focus. Kim Lax from LCLE proposed participating in the commission created by state statute to integrate information systems, chaired by Chief Justice Johnson of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Superintendent Harrison said that local systems do need to integrate with state and federal systems as well, but that the City has made some technology improvements like electronic warrants. Rebecca Dietz left at 2:05.

Calvin Johnson reminded everyone to complete the survey before leaving.

Charles West asked if the Information Sharing Subcommittee was still active. Sarah Schirmer replied that it is, but the subcommittee is focusing on the replacement of the OPSO jail management system.

Judge Buras commented that the big issue looming in Criminal Court's future is Tyler Technologies taking over the jail management system and where that leaves the Clerk's office. She proposed that the Council take a leadership role and not have agencies buy technology on their own that may not integrate. Judge Sens remarked that Traffic Court is in the process of merging with a system that came from the Department of Transportation and that they need to know if they will be able to integrate. Calvin Johnson proposed having another meeting just on this issue that includes everyone on the Council.

VIII. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Judge Sens motioned to adjourn; Gary Maynard seconded.
All in favor – no nays – no abstentions.
The meeting adjourned at 2:13.